

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-24 are rejected. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by McMorrow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,569,097), hereafter McMorrow. Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMorrow in view of Examiner's Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a method for managing ultrasound examination information including, among other elements "providing electronic notification of completion of the at least one ultrasound scan with a completion signal." Independent claim 14, as amended, recites a method for managing ultrasound examination information including, among other elements "generating an output based upon a received completion signal that at least one of the one or more ultrasound scans is complete, the output corresponding to the ultrasound examination information and provided remote from an ultrasound system used to perform the ultrasound examination." Independent claim 21, as amended, recites a user interface for an ultrasound system including, among other elements "a menu portion for receiving a user input indicating the completion of at least one ultrasound scan, a completion signal transmitted based upon the user input and used by a remote system for generating an output based upon ultrasound examination information." Applicants submit that McMorrow fails to teach the claimed invention recited in claims 1, 14 and 21.

Each of the independent claims recite a completion signal and claims 14 and 21 further recite that an output is generated based on the received completion signal. McMorrow teaches an ultrasound system that collects image data using a data collection device (DCD), which is then sent to a web database server. In particular, raw ultrasound data from the DCD is uploaded

into the database, which then may use diagnostic software to evaluate the raw data or which may generate an image for display (see, e.g., McMorow, col. 6, lines 19-32). Accordingly, raw image data acquired from an ultrasound probe using the DCD is communicated over the web to a server for further processing. After processing, a customer relationship management (CRM) accounting server may create a billing for a user's account (see, e.g., col. 9, lines 9-46). Thus, McMorow only teaches the uploading of raw image data, which may be subsequently processed. McMorow does not teach communicating or using a completion signal as recited in claims 1, 14 and 21. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 14 and 21 are allowable.

Moreover, dependent claims 2-13, 15-20 and 22-24 recite subject matter not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. For example, claims 13 and 20, as amended, recite immediately generating an output or billing statement upon receiving the completion signal. As discussed in more detail above, the system of McMorow first processes the received raw image data before generating an output. Accordingly, an output or billing statement necessarily cannot be immediately generated. Additionally, and for example, claim 9, as amended, recites communicating the completion signal to a remote system and wherein ultrasound data from the ultrasound scan is not communicated to the remote system. As discussed above in more detail, the raw ultrasound data is communicated to the remote server over the web. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2-13, 15-20 and 22-24 are allowable.

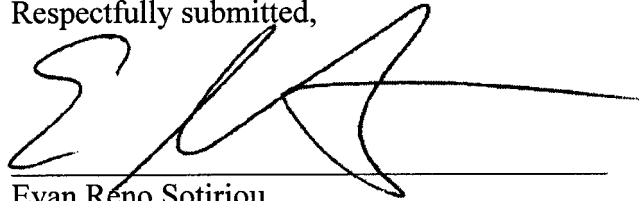
Moreover, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-13, 15-20 and 22-24 are also allowable based at least on the dependency of these claims from the independent claims.

Applicants also traverse the Official Notice used by the Examiner in combination with McMorow to reject claim 24. Accordingly, under MPEP § 2144.03, the Examiner is now obligated to cite references or other documentary evidence in support of the Examiner's assertion. Alternatively, if the Examiner's assertions are based on facts within the personal knowledge of the Examiner, the facts must be supported by an affidavit from the Examiner.

There may be additional and/or alternative reasons to the reasons argued herein and/or herebefore that claims 1-24 are each patentable over the cited references. Without waiver of any additional and/or alternative reasons, Applicants reserve the right to argue any additional and/or alternative reasons hereafter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention and the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Reno Sotiriou', written over a horizontal line.

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